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Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 69/61, entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control", urged Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it related to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict.

2. The General Assembly welcomed the continuing efforts of the United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to accord high priority to the issue of women, peace and security, and in that regard noted the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting the implementation of all resolutions related to women in the context of peace and security.

3. The General Assembly also urged Member States to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels.

4. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of resolution 69/61. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

5. In that connection, a note verbale was sent to all Member States seeking their views on the subject. A memorandum dated 18 February 2016 was also dispatched to relevant United Nations system entities. Member States and relevant United Nations system entities were invited to provide inputs. The replies received are contained in sections II and III of the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Australia

[Original: English]
[31 May 2016]

Australia is deeply committed to the United Nations women, peace and security agenda. Nationally the primary mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of Australia's obligations under Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and associated resolutions, occurs through the Australian National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security 2012-2018. The National Action Plan acknowledges the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and girls and outlines activities that Australia will undertake domestically and internationally to integrate a gender perspective into peace and security efforts. A key element of Australia's advocacy, including through the Ambassador for Women and Girls, is the promotion of women's participation in

conflict prevention, management and resolution as essential to developing and maintaining international peace and security.

Bahrain[1]

[Original: Arabic]
[4 May 2016]

Bahrain has made constructive and innovative efforts in the area of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Those efforts are set forth in the country's comprehensive report. Bahrain wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. States should be called upon to support and strengthen the effective involvement of women in disarmament organizations at the local, national, subregional and regional levels.

2. States should be called upon to take action in order to empower women, notably by building the capacity of women, as appropriate, to help formulate and monitor initiatives on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

3. States should be called upon to comply with international conventions and commitments on non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament.

4. States should be called upon to use modern information and communication technology to raise awareness of the importance of disarmament and the threats posed by the proliferation of weapons.

5. States should be called upon to encourage the use of all media to disseminate a culture of non-violence and non-acquisition of weapons among all members of society, with a focus on youth.

6. Options should be examined with a view to establishing a comprehensive international assistance framework to provide materials, training and capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries in order to support the effective implementation of relevant the international instruments.

7. States that have not yet signed the Arms Trade Treaty should be called upon to do so at the earliest opportunity. The Treaty is a legally-binding instrument on the common international standards to regulate the arms trade at the global level, including small arms and light weapons. It also contains a number of provisions that complement the existing universal instruments to prevent and combat illicit trafficking.

8. States should be called upon to provide support for countries in conflict situations and countries with a high level of armed violence.

9. States that are in a position to do so should be called upon to provide assistance in order to strengthen institutional capacities to respond to crime and violence and address the challenges posed by uncontrolled proliferation.

[1] The full text of the information provided by the Government of Bahrain is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

10. States that are in a position to do so should provide advisory and technical support for the destruction of surplus, obsolete or confiscated weapons and ammunition in order to prevent their sale or smuggling to illicit markets, something that would allow a climate of conflict to emerge.

11. States should be urged to exchange information on lessons learned from previous disarmament and peacebuilding projects.

12. States should ensure that women are included and involved in matters related to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

13. States should be encouraged to consider the ground-breaking experience of Bahrain, where the Supreme Council for Women has taken the lead through the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women and through its work on women and disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[2 June 2016]

The gender perspective is becoming increasingly important in discussions of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which were the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in 1995, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women, peace and security and General Assembly resolution 69/61 of 2 December 2014 represent an important framework for the gender perspective in the work of the United Nations.

The international community should understand that gender mainstreaming is the analytical tool that enables the gender perspective to be incorporated into the issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. This could help to achieve a better understanding of how men and women assess and see these issues.

It would therefore be worthwhile for the United Nations to adopt integrated standards for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as it did for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in December 2006. That required mainstreaming and the full participation of women at all stages of the process.

The establishment of gender balance could facilitate disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Women's participation in discussions on these matters in the relevant forums should be encouraged, and women should be included in the work of the disarmament bodies.

With regard to capacity-building, including the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament and other training opportunities, female candidates should receive priority. There should be training to mainstream a gender perspective into national legislation in the area of small arms and light weapons, whose uncontrolled proliferation represents a threat to international peace and security.

Granted a significant role in decision-making forums, inclusion in activities on the ground, training and empowerment, women will be able to play a very important role in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[24 May 2016]

Cuba supports the strengthening of women's participation at all levels of decision-making in policymaking institutions, both national and international, in areas related to the promotion of international peace and security.

The national commitment to promoting equal opportunities for women at all levels should include decision-making on matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Cuba has stressed the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have an important role to play in monitoring the international commitments made by United Nations Member States in this regard.

Cuba supports the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its call for steps to ensure peace; recognition of the important role that women have played in the peace movement and the active efforts they have made towards general and complete disarmament under strict, effective and efficient international control; and support for nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects.

The responsibility and success of women in addressing new and growing challenges in the current international context demonstrate the need to continue increasing their involvement in political life.

Cuba has achieved enormous progress in relation to women's participation in, inter alia, the workforce, education, health, and political and economic life, as a result of public policies to benefit the Cuban people in general and women in particular.

The participation of Cuban women in the political life of the country can be seen from their strong presence in all bodies of the Cuban State and Government. Currently, Cuba has 292 women in Parliament, who account for 48.9 per cent of parliamentarians, which exceeds the targets established by the Beijing Platform for Action. In addition, 42.5 per cent of the members of the Council of State are women.

Cuba reaffirms its willingness to continue working for the rights and empowerment of women in all spheres of society.

Jamaica[2]

[Original: English]
[24 June 2016]

Jamaica recognizes the critical role of women in preventing and reducing armed violence through greater involvement in disarmament, non-proliferation and

[2] The full text of the information provided by the Government of Jamaica is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/topics/gender). A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

arms control. Jamaica also stands ready to develop the requisite mechanisms to facilitate the participation and representation of women in policy-making, planning and the implementation of its National Small Arms Control Strategy.

Developments

- Development and administration of a National Crime Victimization Survey (2012/2013), which seeks to disaggregate data based on sex and age, to better understand the impact of armed violence on Jamaicans, to include women and girls.
- Increased participation of women in activities involving stockpile management, such as the electronic tracing of illicit firearms and ammunition, as well as the National Firearm Marking Project, among other areas.
- The Violence Prevention Alliance, through work with the Jamaica Crime Observatory Integrated Crime and Violence Information System, is able to identify the perpetrators and victims of violence and circumstances surrounding each case of death or injury. In addition, through partnership with key stakeholder entities, the Violence Prevention Alliance enables risk reduction strategies to be employed for specific geo-locations, which facilitate the reduction of the use of firearms to commit violence against women and children.
- The implementation of a Violence Interruption Programme, which targets high risk individuals within volatile communities having a high propensity for the use of firearms. The utilization of proven canvassing methodologies within high risk and volatile communities also provides an opportunity to facilitate prevention of the use of firearms to commit violence against women and children.
- The Citizen Security and Justice Programme has implemented a Risk Assessment Process which supports the detection of the most at risk individuals within communities and employs case management strategies that will seek to alleviate individual levels of risk. This process will significantly facilitate the reduction of the use of firearms to commit violence against women and children.
- Establishment of women's empowerment groups within communities by the Peace Management Initiative to influence the reduction of the use of firearms and reduce risks of violence against women and children.

Jamaica will continue to remain engaged on issues to stem the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and will remain unwavering in its support for disarmament in all its aspects, including nuclear disarmament.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[8 April 2016]

Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

The Ministry of National Defence wishes to make the following points:

Lebanon has always been a supporter of international conventions and United Nations resolutions aimed at achieving gender equality in all areas and in decision-making processes. Lebanese women are subject to the same provisions as men. However, in view of the specificities of the Middle East, a particular approach is taken to female soldiers. The latter do not serve in combat units; they are assigned only to roles involving health, administration, information and communication technology, justice, the arts, the air force, hotel management, signals, archiving and sports training. Lebanon has suffered from armed violence and needs any form of assistance that could help to alleviate such suffering. Nevertheless, Lebanon provides every possible support to Lebanese women with a view to involving them in efforts towards disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

As regards ways to enhance the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, the Ministry of Defence wishes to make the following recommendations:

- States should be called upon to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; work towards disarmament generally; and redirect the funds spent on such weapons in order to help other States to foster and enhance various aspects of development, particularly support for women and gender equality.
- Legislation should be enacted at the national, subregional and regional levels to enable women to participate effectively in all fields, in particular disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
- Women should be appointed to United Nations positions concerning the prevention of armed violence and armed conflict in certain States around the world. The capacities and influence of women should not be dismissed.

Portugal[3]

[Original: English]
[31 May 2016]

Portugal adhered to international instruments and protocols on this issue, and also created internal legislation that aims at the promotion of women's participation in the above-mentioned themes. In May 2011, Portugal ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking of Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Although its internal legislation includes many of the arrangements included in that Protocol, this ratification reinforces

[3] The full text of the information provided by the Government of Portugal is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/topics/gender). A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

Portugal's position, in the context of the United Nations, with regard to combating the traffic, stockpiling and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Portugal also supported the conclusions of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as the criterion related to gender, consecrated in the Arms Trade Treaty and gender-based violence which is intrinsically linked to the traffic of that type of arms.

Portugal has adopted the V National Plan on Preventing and Combating Domestic and Gender-based Violence, 2014-2017, which is integrated into the Programme of the XIX Constitutional Government. Portugal has been underlining the need for coordination among the entities involved, either in the protection of victims and training of professionals working in these areas, or in the investigation of the crimes.

The V National Plan on Preventing and Combating Domestic and Gender-based Violence is within the framework of the commitments assumed by Portugal in many international institutions, namely the United Nations Organization, the European Council, the European Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. We also highlight the Convention of the Council of Europe on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Portugal was the first country to ratify that convention, on 5 February 2013.

Of particular importance, from the point of view of the above-mentioned National Plan, is the national transposition of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which includes humanitarian assistance in armed conflicts, the internal promotion of coherence and articulation among the internal policies in the area of disarmament, arms control and the combat to the use of light weapons, public security and the combating of gender-based violence, aiming at the defence of human rights, and especially women's rights.

Sweden

[Original: English]
[20 May 2016]

Sweden would like to thank the Office for Disarmament Affairs for the opportunity to comment on resolution 69/61 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Sweden is a firm supporter of the aims of resolution 69/61, making important connections between issues of gender equality and policies for disarmament and arms control. Such links are often neglected and resolution 69/61 plays an important role in raising awareness of the need to apply a gender perspective in the work on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Sweden pursues a feminist foreign policy and is implementing systematic gender mainstreaming throughout the foreign policy agenda, not least in peace and security efforts.

When it comes to the disarmament and non-proliferation area, Sweden promotes equal participation of women and men in disarmament discussions and negotiations. This includes the representation of women in international

organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Sweden has consistently stressed that the equal participation of men and women in disarmament analyses, delegations, discussions and decisions increases the legitimacy, quality and effectiveness of disarmament agreements. Sweden has also worked with partners to highlight the effects of nuclear weapons on women and girls.

In line with the 2015 report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons, Sweden would like to highlight the gendered nature of armed violence and conflict. A gender-sensitive perspective should therefore inform policies and programmes on conflict prevention and arms control. This includes recognition of the fact that women are not just victims, but also perpetrators and facilitators of armed violence.

Policies and programmes on arms control need to be gender mainstreamed. Sweden would like to encourage more research on gendered aspects of armed violence, including gender disaggregated data collection on the different impacts of armed violence on women and men, girls and boys. In this regard, Sweden would specifically like to highlight the important work of the Small Arms Survey.

A gender perspective should be integrated into the implementation of international instruments on small arms control, including the Arms Trade Treaty and the United Nations Programme of Action. Sweden encourages States to accede to the Arms Trade Treaty and to live up to the obligations of in its article 7(4) on gender-based violence.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[3 June 2016]

In accordance with regulation No. 1834 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 27 December 2006 on approval of the State Programme for ensuring gender equality in Ukrainian society, in order to implement the principle of equal rights and opportunities for men and women, relevant state bodies of Ukraine strictly adhere to equal distribution when making appointments to the civil service.

As at 31 December 2015, the gender balance of the office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine is the following: 180 women (49.9%) and 196 men (52.1%).

More than 5,000 women do military service in the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, 90 per cent of whom serve in the units of the state border control. A total of 150 women, representing 20 per cent of all students, study at the educational establishments of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

The State Service of Export Control of Ukraine has the following gender balance: 24 men (43%), 31 women (57%). The leadership of the Service consists of 6 women (37%).

All women working in relevant state institutions actively participate in diverse training courses, seminars and conferences on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control which are held at both national and international levels.

On 11 and12 February 2016, the official of the Security Service of Ukraine took part in the international forum entitled "Women. Peace and security" (Istanbul). During that event the official, representatives of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other women organizations in the Donetsk region agreed to hold a number of round tables and seminars within the framework of implementation of the General Assembly resolution 69/61.

III. Replies received from the United Nations system

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

[Original: English]
[13 June 2014]

Women's civil society organizations have played a key role as activists and lobbyists for the reduction of military expenditure and all forms of disarmament. The passage of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security was driven by women peace activists who united around disarmament as a linchpin for more peaceful and equitable societies. In 2015, the world celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of that landmark resolution. Activists and practitioners widely urged peace and security decision-makers to return to the original intention of resolution 1325 (2000), namely the prevention of armed conflict and meaningful disarmament.

UN-Women led the secretariat for the global study, entitled *Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace*, which was presented to Member States on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary. The Global Study contained a resounding call to accelerate disarmament and drew a strong parallel between the global arms trade and the insecurity of women and girls across the world. The global study also articulated the linkage between small arms violence, gender-based violence and organized crime in Latin America, as a major security issue and made recommendations on increasing Member State and private sector accountability to the Arms Trade Treaty. The Treaty contains a criterion on gender-based violence, which was a result of strong advocacy from civil society supported by UN-Women, Member States and other bilateral and multilateral actors. However, much more emphasis needs to be placed on the implementation and monitoring of the Treaty, as well as other instruments, such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. Women's civil society can be a powerful actor in being a watchdog for these agreements if given the access and support to do so.

The fifteenth anniversary culminated in the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of the eighth resolution on women, peace and security. Resolution 2242 (2015) encourages women's participation in the design and implementation of efforts to prevent illicit transfer of small arms.

UN-Women and partners also supported national authorities and United Nations counterparts to increase attention to the needs and capacities of female ex-combatants and women associated with armed forces and groups in Colombia, the Central African Republic and Mali.

Office for Disarmament Affairs

[Original: English]
[10 June 2014]

General observations

The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to address the link between gender and disarmament throughout 2014 and 2015 with a view, in particular, to the fifteenth anniversary of the landmark Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. During this anniversary year, the Office supported the conclusions of the high-level review of resolution 1325 (2000), including the importance of the prevention of conflict and meaningful disarmament.

The Office continued to explore the complementary focus between empowering women's participation in disarmament forums and the nexus between conventional arms control and preventing gender-based violence. Discussion on the latter was especially relevant in the context of implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, which entered into force on 24 December 2014. Member States and civil society undertook various efforts to operationalize article 7(4) of the Treaty, which requires States parties to take into account the risk of arms being used to commit gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children in their export assessments. States and civil society have engaged in capacity-building activities to ensure that States parties are in a position to implement this provision of the Treaty.

Furthermore, the broader linkage between gender and disarmament was addressed in a variety of multilateral forums, including the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. The Secretary-General has also addressed the relationship between gender, small arms and violent extremism.[4]

On 13 May 2015, the Security Council held an open debate on the issue of small arms and light weapons. The debate was informed by the biennial report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons (S/2015/289). In that report, the Secretary-General noted the highly gendered nature of the causes and consequences of the use of weapons and recommended that the gendered nature of armed violence and conflict inform policy and programmatic responses. He also recommended the full participation of women in combatting the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons.

Shortly after the debate, the Council adopted resolution 2220 (2015) on small arms and light weapons. Through the resolution, the Council identified a range of areas in which international cooperation could be bolstered, recognizing the importance of well-targeted and monitored sanctions regimes, appropriate United

[4] The Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), released on 24 December 2015, recognizes the impact of terrorism on women and the importance of gender equality and empowering women and girls in combating the drivers of violent extremism.

Nations peacekeeping mandates, effective reintegration and demobilization programmes, security sector reform, and the role of women.

At the initiative of the Presidency of the Netherlands, the Conference on Disarmament held an informal meeting on gender and disarmament on 11 August 2015. The discussion was set within the context of implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), including the high-level review of its implementation.

During the Conference's informal meeting, several States noted their support for the 1325 framework, paying special attention to its particular connection to disarmament. The first of its kind, the informal meeting addressed gender as an issue that cuts across all items on the Conference's agenda, including those related to weapons of mass destruction. Several States used their national statements to recognize how men and women were affected differently by issues related to weapons systems, including nuclear weapons. The discussion was widely welcomed by delegations and interest was expressed in integrating this cross-cutting issue in the work of the Conference on a more regular basis in future.

Since 2010, focus on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons has brought renewed impetus to disarmament efforts. The groundswell of support for the humanitarian initiative has contributed to increased attention being paid to integrating cross-cutting issues, such as gender, public health and the environment, into multilateral processes in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. At the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 2015, while consensus on a substantive outcome document could not be reached, States parties used the forum to express support for the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament, including its relationship to gender. Many States supported the call to ensure women and men are equally represented at all levels in disarmament and non-proliferation processes. Likewise, many States supported a reference in the draft final document to the disproportionate effects on women and children of the health and environmental consequences resulting from nuclear tests.

Several States also raised gender considerations in their statements at the 70th session during the meetings of the First Committee. On 7 December, the General Assembly adopted a new resolution (70/50) on the ethical imperatives for a nuclear free world. In the resolution, which was introduced by South Africa, the Assembly, inter alia, declared that greater attention must be given to the impact of a nuclear weapon detonation on women and the importance of their participation in discussions, decisions and actions on nuclear weapons.

Activities and initiatives of the Office for Disarmament Affairs

In December 2015, the Office dedicated one of its podcasts in the series "Disarmament Today" to the topic "Gender and disarmament". The interview featured the Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, Shorna-Kay Richards. Ms. Richards discussed, inter alia, the significance of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control", which was first introduced in 2010 at the sixty-fifth session. Ms. Richards referred to the resolution's subsequent iterations that had demonstrated a broader scope as they noted the relevance of the Arms Trade Treaty,

in particular the gender-based violence provision, as well as armed violence and the collection of sex-disaggregated data.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa continued to support gender-focused activities and the participation of women at all levels of decision-making. In February 2015, the Centre and the Mali National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons organized a large-scale public event to highlight the role of women in disarmament and arms control. More than 1,200 persons, almost 1,000 of them women, attended the event, which was broadcast on national television to mark International Women's Day. In December 2015, the Centre, jointly with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Commission of the African Union, organized a workshop on the Arms Trade Treaty obligations relating to human rights and gender-related issues.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific promoted a gender perspective in all its activities by ensuring the highest possible female participation at its events and by selecting female experts whenever possible. Through its "peace and disarmament education" project with Nepal, the Centre also included gender concepts related to disarmament and peace education into Nepal's school curricula, which aims to reach approximately 400,000 girls and boys.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean continued to include gender issues as a cross-cutting theme in the design and implementation of all its projects. In particular, the Centre developed a tool for assessing the gender-related risks involved in conventional arms transfers in the framework of the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. The Centre also made a significant effort to include women in its activities: in 2015, on average, female participation reached almost 30 per cent.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs at the Vienna International Centre created the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education Partnership in 2015. It was designed to develop training courses on disarmament and non-proliferation education and to promote networks and outreach activities. In particular, this project has a gender dimension with the development of a Women Scholarship for Peace initiative to train 120 young female professionals on peace, disarmament and non-proliferation. The Scholarship aims to address the gender gap in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in line with the recognition in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of the critical importance of the participation of women in international peace and security efforts.

IV. Replies received from other international organizations

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

[Original: English]
[2 June 2016]

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and related resolutions. NATO understands gender mainstreaming within a

broader human security context as a multiplier of its work in all phases of the conflict cycle. It also strengthens NATO efforts in non-conflict-related activities, such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, combating small arms and light Weapons, mine action and arms control.

In 2010, NATO established an Action Plan for NATO and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) nations on implementing gender mainstreaming. In the area of disarmament and arms control, and in line with the Action Plan, the Arms Control and Coordination Section in the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division at NATO has initiated a process to mainstream gender in its activities related to small arms and light weapons, in close cooperation with the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security.

Based on the NATO/EAPC Action Plan on women, peace and security, the Arms Control and Coordinating Section is currently establishing two sets of guidelines to integrate gender perspectives into its activities related to small arms and light weapons and arms control. To this end, the Section has engaged member and partner nations to share lessons learned and best practices.

Current efforts involve consultations with NATO allies and partner nations aimed at identifying concrete measures for mainstreaming gender perspectives into NATO operational activities on small arms and light weapons/mine action and arms control to be shared with nations and actors on the ground. This process includes discussions with other partner organizations, such as the European External Action Service, the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Small Arms Survey, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to ensure consistency with the efforts of the international community.

Gender mainstreaming is already implemented in several projects carried out by the NATO Support and Procurement Agency, in particular in Jordan (Explosive remnants of War Risk education and Security Sector Reform) and in Mauritania (Physical Security and Stockpile Management). Furthermore, NATO offers a separate module on gender mainstreaming in its yearly small arms and light weapons/mine action course at the NATO School in Oberammergau.